- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.
- Establishing quality certification systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.
- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes;
- Export of value added silk items is being encouraged through assistance to exporters for participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, market research & surveys, etc.

"Ever Greening" Provision in patent act, 1970

2325. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ordinance amending the Patent Act, 1970 allows "every greening", i.e. filing patent applications for new forms of older patented drugs and of new uses of older drugs.

(b) if so, the details thereof including the patent applications filed and granted to the above category for the last one decade, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether "ever greening" may block the entry of generic drugs into the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof including action taken to overcome the above;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the total number and details of life saving drugs as on today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) The Patents Act, 1970 as amended by the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 does not provide for evergreening of patents *vide* Section 3(d) and 3(e) which provide that the following are not inventions within the meaning of the Patents Act.

Section 3(b) "the mere discovery of any new property or mere new use for a known substance or of the mere use of a known process, machine or

apparatus unless such known process results in a new product or employs at least one new reactant".

Section 3(e) "a substance obtained by a mere admixture resulting only in the aggregation of the properties of the components thereof or a process for producing such substance".

(f) Information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth rate of exports and imports

2326. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of growth of exports is considerably less in comparison to import items in our country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government to decrease our import items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) According to the figures provided by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the growth rate of exports and imports during the last three years is as given under:

(In US$ Million)

Year	Exports	Growth Rate (in %)	Imports	Growth Rate (in %)
2001-02	43827	-1.6	51413	1.7
2002-03	52719	20.29	61412	19.45
2003-04	63843	21.10	78150	27.25

(c) There are no measures to restrict imports or artificially balance trade that may lead to dampening of the growth of the economy or lead to resurgence of inflationary pressures. However, export promotion is a constant endeavour of the Government and a Foreign Trade Policy was announced on 31st August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India's overall share of global merchandise trade within the next five years.